

CLAIMS:

1. A method of automatic payment of a software license fee for a service program which is run by a service arrangement, in which the service arrangement executes the following steps of the method:

- receiving input information from a user device of a user of the service offered
5 by the service arrangement;
- processing the received input information with the service program and rendering output information available;
- determining service payment information for the processing of the input information of the user device with the service program;
- 10 - sending the available output information and, as the case may be, also the determined service payment information to the user device;
- determining software license settlement information from at least one of the determined service payment information signals;
- sending the determined software license payment information to a pay system
15 for automatic payment of the software license fee for the service program, which pay system provides a bill for the software license fee for the use of the service program by the operator of the service arrangement, which bill is based on the received software license payment information.

20 2. A method as claimed in claim 1, in which the service arrangement runs a speech recognition program and in which the service arrangement receives speech information of a dictation of a user as input information and processes same with the speech recognition program and in which text information of the dictation recognized from the received speech information by the speech recognition program is sent as output information
25 to the user device of the user of the service arrangement.

3. A method as claimed in claim 1, in which an identification number of the service program is entered in the software license payment information during the installation of the software of the service program and is stored by the service arrangement.

4. A method as claimed in claim 1, in which the software license payment information is stored in encoded form by the service arrangement.

5. A method as claimed in claim 1, in which the service arrangement executes at least two service programs in parallel and in which the service arrangement takes these at least two service programs into account when the software license payment information is determined.

6. A transcription service arrangement for offering a transcription service and for determining software license payment information, to enable an automatic payment of a software license fee for a speech recognition program run by the transcription service arrangement, comprising receiving means for receiving speech information of a dictation from a user device of a user of the transcription service, and comprising speech recognition means which, when the speech recognition program is run, are arranged for processing the received speech information and for providing text information which is recognized from the received speech information, and comprising service payment means for determining service payment information for the transcription of the user's speech information, and comprising service send means for sending the recognized text information and, as the case may be, also the service payment information to the user device, and comprising software license payment means for determining the software license payment information from at least one of the determined service payment information signals, and comprising software license send means for sending the determined software license payment information to a pay system which is provided for preparing a bill for the software license fee on the basis of the received software license payment information for the use of the speech recognition program by the operator of the transcription service arrangement.

7. A transcription service arrangement as claimed in claim 6, in which the software license payment means are arranged for detecting a manipulation of determined service payment information and for detecting a manipulation of the determined software license payment information.

8. A transcription service arrangement as claimed in claim 6, in which the software license payment means are arranged for requesting a new prepaid balance from the pay system when the prepaid balance stored in the pay system has nearly been used up.

5 9. A transcription service arrangement as claimed in claim 6, in which the software license send means are provided for periodically sending the determined software license payment information to the pay system even when the speech recognition program was not run in the payment interval by the transcription service arrangement.

10 10. A pay system for automatic payment of a software license fee for a service program run by a service arrangement, comprising receiving means for receiving software license payment information from the service arrangement, which runs the service program so that input information is processed by a user device, and output information is delivered to the user device, and comprising software license billing means for processing the received
15 software license payment information and for preparing a bill for the software license fee for the use of the service program by the operator of the service arrangement.

11. A pay system as claimed in claim 10, in which the software license billing means are provided for deducting the amount of the available bill from a prepaid balance of
20 the operator of the service arrangement.

12. A computer program product which can be directly loaded into the internal memory of a digital computer and comprises software code sections, in which the computer executes the steps of the method as claimed in claim 1 when the product runs on the
25 computer.

13. A computer program product as claimed in claim 12, in which it is stored on a medium that can be read by a computer.